**The Mountaineers Foothills Branch**

**Trip Leader Application - Hiking and Backpacking**

Thank you for your interest in becoming a trip leader with the Foothills Branch Hiking and Backpacking Committee of The Mountaineers! All our leaders are volunteers, and we encourage people with skills obtained through a wide variety of backgrounds to seek the satisfaction and growth of being a hike or backpack leader for the Mountaineers.

At the same time we also must ensure that every leader meets some critical baseline standards. This application will provide our committee with some basic information about your goals and relevant experience. With this information we will follow up with you on the next steps to get you certified as a hike or backpack leader.

Please send your completed application via email to *cascadehiker@earthlink.net* . If it is easier for you, print the form, hand write your information, then mail to Cheryl Talbert at 26225 SE 158th St, Issaquah WA 98027. If you have questions please phone me at 253-229-4018. Our committee will normally get back to you within two weeks. Thank You.

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| --- | --- |
| Date: |  |
| Your Name: |  |
| Address: |  |
| Phone Number: |  |
| Email: |  |
| Date you joined the Mountaineers: |  |
| Branch Affiliation: |  |

1. Are you currently a qualified leader for any other Mountaineers activity committees? Please specify the other activities and when you were certified as a leader for each one.
2. Are you a recent graduate of a major course or program for the Mountaineers? (climbing, scrambling, Conditioning Hiking Series, etc.) Please specify the course and when you graduated.
3. Please tell us what interests you about becoming a trip leader with The Mountaineers. What about leading appeals to you? How might this fit with your personal goals or other plans? How active a leader would you like to be (number of trips you might see yourself leading in a month or a year).
4. Tell us briefly about your experience with hiking and/or backpacking.
5. Please list the hikes and backpacks you have done during the past 1-2 years and whether they were with The Mountaineers, on your own/with friends, or with another organization. Please include the trip name or destination, the approximate mileage/ number of days, and the pace. If there are many, (more than 10) please describe a few representative ones and indicate about how often you hike or backpack.
6. Please describe your level of expertise with hike and backpack gear and core trail and camp skills.
7. Please describe your specific experience and any courses or training you’ve had in the following areas within the past 5 years. Please include the year that you had the experience or course and with what organization:
8. Group Leadership/Outdoor Leadership (including service as a leader, instructor or similar role in conducting outdoor recreational activities inside or outside the Mountaineers)
9. Navigation
10. First Aid – Wilderness Medicine – Emergency Response
11. Other Mountain Safety Skills/Experience/Training
12. Describe any other significant outdoor activity experience you have such as snow shoeing, scrambling, climbing, backcountry skiing, trail running or sea kayaking, and any interest you might have to lead in one of these areas for the Mountaineers.
13. What constraints could limit your ability to complete additional training if needed to become a leader? What constraints could limit your ability to lead hikes and backpacks in the coming year and beyond?
14. Would you potentially have in interest in taking part in a committee to develop and improve hiking or backpacking offerings, leader recruitment and retention?

In becoming an instructor and sharing your knowledge and skills with others?

1. What else would you like us to know about you?